

# Air Toxics Exposure Assessment Workshop

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# Agency Decisions/Sound Science

- ✍ “The credibility of our decisions depends on the science.”
- ✍ “I believe that scientific analysis should drive policy. Neither policy nor politics should drive scientific results.

- Administrator Whitman, SETAC, 11.13.01

# ORD Regional Science Program

- ✍ Regional Science Liaisons to ORD
- ✍ Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE)
- ✍ Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops

# Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops

## ✍ Topics

- selected by the Regions (up to 3 annually)

## ✍ Science issues

- identified by the Regions

## ✍ Jointly planned

- Regions, ORD, and interested Program Offices

## ✍ Previous Workshop Topics

- Asthma, Communicating Science, Pesticides, EDCs, Non-indigenous species, Emerging Pathogens, and Aquatic Life Criteria



# Regions/ORD Science Workshop Objectives

- ✍ Create cross-Agency science networks
- ✍ Identify:
  - Opportunities to integrate EPA science into Regional decision-making
  - Critical science uncertainties, and
  - Needed science products

# Sound Science is key to Understanding How EPA Makes a Difference



- ✍ Sound Science – good methods, measurements and models
  - is critical to understanding how emissions, ambient conditions, exposures, and ultimate impacts are linked
- ✍ Sound science is critical:
  - in deciding whether or not to take action,
  - in deciding what actions are most effective,
  - and in evaluating the ultimate effectiveness of our actions

# The Importance Air Toxics Exposure Assessment in EPA Sound Science

## ✍ Deciding to take action

- Exposure Assessment is critical to air toxics risk characterization

## ✍ Deciding what actions are most effective

- Exposure Assessment can help identify the sources and air toxic pollutants of concern

## ✍ Evaluating the ultimate effectiveness of actions

- Exposure assessment provides a good measure of success

# Challenges for Exposure Science

- ✍ The need to track Exposure information is recognized
  - Pew Commission, GAO
- ✍ More and more data on Bioindicators, etc. will become available
  - Environmental Health Tracking Program, NHANES, National Children's Study
- ✍ EPA needs to know more about exposure
  - How, why, when, how much?

# EPA Needs to Address these Challenges

- ✍ We must meet these challenges with an aggressive program to make the data useful in actually protecting human health and the environment.
- ✍ Augment the available indicator data with information on
  - The hazard associated the exposure;
  - The source / pathway of exposure; and,
  - Scientifically credible actions to mitigate the exposure and effects.